

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 251.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Veronica S. Rossman, of Colorado, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 251, Veronica S. Rossman, of Colorado, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Michael F. Bennet, John Hickenlooper, Christopher A. Coons, Cory A. Booker, Edward J. Markey, Elizabeth Warren, Alex Padilla, Richard Blumenthal, Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow, Martin Heinrich.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021—
Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 77, S. 2093.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 77, S. 2093, a bill to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 77, S. 2093, a bill to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Sherrod Brown, Jeff Merkley, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Chris Van Hollen, Amy Klobuchar, Jacky Rosen, Richard Blumenthal, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, August 11, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE
CALENDAR

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I know the hour is late, but we have nearly 30 highly qualified Foreign Affairs and Development nominees who are languishing on the Senate floor. We have to confirm these nominees to fully equip the United States to pursue our foreign policy objectives, and I will be asking unanimous consent to confirm each one.

My distinguished colleague from Connecticut, Senator MURPHY, a member of the committee, is here to join with me in this effort. I know the Presiding Officer is also a distinguished member of the committee.

In the nearly 30 years that I have been working on foreign policy, we have never faced such a confluence of global challenges: a once-in-a-century global pandemic; climate change threatening stability, health, and safety across the world; fueling displacement and resource-driven conflicts; great power competition from an increasingly emboldened China and Russia.

We have the tools to confront these challenges; to promote American values and interests around the world to advance the safety, health, and economic well-being of all Americans. But we cannot do that when we do not have empowered diplomats and development professionals in place to do so.

So I call on this body to confirm these nominees—all of whom the Foreign Relations Committee has moved

with bipartisan support—to put the United States in the best position to advance our foreign policy, development, and national security priorities.

I am calling for confirmation of all of these nominees: those up for Ambassadorships, senior State Department, and USAID positions. We need them in place.

Now, the Trump administration had its first Ambassador confirmed on day 62 of the Trump Presidency. The Obama administration had its first Ambassador confirmed at day 73. The George W. Bush administration had its first Ambassador confirmed at day 75. For the Clinton administration, it was day 75. For the George H. W. Bush administration, it was day 83.

We are now more than 200 days into the Biden administration, and as of this moment, there is not a single confirmed State Department country Ambassador—not one. And going back four administrations, there is a precedent of moving a package of nominees before the August recess.

Under George W. Bush, the Senate confirmed a package of 81 nominees. During the Obama administration, the Senate confirmed a package of 104 nominees. And during the Trump administration, we confirmed a package of 75 nominees.

We should be ashamed of holding the record for the longest delay in fully equipping the State Department and USAID to pursue the foreign policy, development, and national security interests of the United States.

Now, some Members of this body call on one hand for assertive American leadership on the global stage, and, at the same time, they hold up these critical positions. Many of these nominees are career diplomats, public servants who have dedicated their lives to advancing U.S. interests. They have served under the Trump administration in the same way they will serve in the Biden administration: on behalf of the American people.

Many of my colleagues are readily focused on effectively confronting Chinese malign influence. Well, a fundamentally critical element of confronting China is empowered leadership in our diplomatic corps, across the world. So let me be clear. Holding up diplomats to posts across Africa and the Western Hemisphere is effectively ceding influence to China and actively undermining U.S. national security interests.

I recently heard an anecdote from a diplomat in Cameroon. When he travels outside the capital city, Cameroonians will greet him with a “ni hao,” assuming that if he isn’t Cameroonian, he must be Chinese.

Meanwhile, we haven’t had an American Ambassador in Cameroon in more than a year, and the Foreign Relations Committee approved a career diplomat for the post by voice vote nearly a month ago. What could possibly be the rationale for holding him up?